

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 10230 060650Z
ACTION H-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7959
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 10230

STADIS////////////////////

PASS TO CODEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (JAVITS, JACOB K.) US, KS
SUBJECT: CODEL JAVITS: MEETING WITH MAJOR GENERAL VAN MUYDEN

1. SENATOR JAVITS, HIS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ALBERT LAKELAND, AND DCM MR. STERN MET WITH MAJOR GENERAL VAN MUYDEN, SWISS MEMBER OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS SUPERVISORY COMMISSION ON DECEMBER 2. THE GENERAL WHO TRAVELS IN NORTH KOREA ON DUTY GAVE THE SENATOR HIS IMPRESSIONS OF CONDITIONS THERE. THE GENERAL SAID THE NORTH HAD MADE GREAT STRIDES IN RECONSTRUCTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, REGIMENTATION OF THE POPULATION HAD REACHED HEIGHTS UNMATCHED ELSEWHERE IN THE WORLD. IN ITS PROPAGANDA, THE NORTH PAINTS ITSELF AS THE ONLY LEGITIMATE GOVERNMENT OF KOREA. THE SOUTH IS DESCRIBED AS BEING UNDER THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF THE U.S. AND THE ROKG AS A PUPPET OF U.S. IMPERIALISM. PROPAGANDA IN THE NORTH DESCRIBES THE SOUTH AS AN IMPOVERISHED HELL ON EARTH. KEY MEMBERS OF THE RULING DPRK ELITE AND CERTAINLY KIM IL-SUNG ARE AWARE OF THE TRUE STATE OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH IN THE GENERAL'S OPINION.

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2. THE GENERAL RECOUNTED SOME OF THE EXPERIENCES OF THE NEUTRAL NATIONS COMMISSION - ESPECIALLY THE FRUSTRATION OF ITS EFFORTS TO MAKE MILITARY INSPECTIONS IN THE NORTH. THE ABILITY TO INSPECT ONLY IN THE SOUTH LED TO THE ABANDONMENT OF THE INSPECTION FUNCTION ON THE INITIATIVE OF THE UN COMMAND.

3. THE GENERAL POINTED OUT THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF US FORCES FROM KOREA HAS ALWAYS BEEN A MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF PYONGYANG. THE GENERAL SAID HE FELT A MARKED RISE IN INCIDENTS IN 1976, AND ELECTION YEAR IN THE US, CULMINATING IN THE BRUTAL AXE SLAYING OF TWO U.S. OFFICERS IN THE JOINT SECURITY AREA IN THE SUMMER, PERHAPS TIMED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE PRESENCE OF A CANDIDATE IN THE PRESIDENTIAL RACE WHO FAVORED WITHDRAWING U.S. FORCES. THE GENERAL BELIEVES THAT THE NORTH THINKS IT LEARNED A LESSON FROM U.S. EXPERIENCE IN VIETNAM, I.E. THAT IT CAN INFLUENCE THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW IN THE FACE OF DANGER. FURTHERMORE, THE GENERAL FEARS THAT THE NORTH PRESUMES THAT THE WITHDRAWAL OF U.S. TOOOS IS A SIGN THAT THE U.S. IS ABANDONING THE AREA TO THEIR INFLUENCE, AND THAT THEY FEEL THEY CAN IGNORE FORMAL U.S. COMMITTMENTS TO THE ROK AS THE NROTH VIETNAMESE IGNORED THEIR AGREEMENTS WITH THE U.S.

4. THIS SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION WAS PREPARED AFTER THE SENATOR'S DEPARTURE AND WAS, THEREFORE, NOT CLEARED WITH THE CODEL.
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